

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate, on Wednesday, September 17 at 10:00 a.m. to consider pending calendar business:

Agenda Item 1: The nomination of Suede Kelly to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Agenda Item 2: Nomination of Rick Dearborn to be Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs at the Department of Energy.

Agenda Item 3: S.J. Res. 16—Joint resolution to approve the “Compact of Free Association, as amended between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia”, and the “Compact of Free Association, as amended between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands”, and otherwise to amend Public Law 99-239, and to appropriate for the purposes of amended Public Law 99-239 for fiscal year ending on or before September 30, 2023, and for other purposes.

In addition, the Committee may turn to any other measures that are ready for consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be authorized to meet in open Executive Session during the session on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at 10 a.m., to consider a Chairman's Mark entitled, Extension of Highway Trust Fund Provisions, and S. 1548, Volumetric Ethanol Excise Tax Credit Act of 2003 (VEETC) (as modified by the Chairman's Mark); and, a Chairman's Mark entitled, National Employee Saving and Trust Equity Guarantee Act; and H.R. 743, The Social Security Program Protection Act of 2003.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, September 17, 2003 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a hearing on U.S. Energy Security: West Africa & Latin America.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. for a hearing titled “U.S. Postal Service: What Can Be Done to Ensure Its Future Viability?”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Indian Affairs be authorized to meet on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at 10:00 a.m. in Room 485 of the Russell Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on S. 420, a bill to provide for the acknowledgement of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at 10 a.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office building room 226 on “Judicial Nominations.”

Witness List:

Panel I: Senators.

Panel II: David W. McKeague to United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Panel III: Margaret Catharine Rogers to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida; Roger W. Titus to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland; George W. Miller to be Judge for the United States Court of Federal Claims.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at 2 p.m. in the Dirksen Senate Office building room 226 on “Combating Gang Violence in America: Examining Effective Federal, State and Local Law Enforcement Strategies.”

Witness List:

Panel I: The Honorable Patrick Fitzgerald, United States Attorney, Northern District of Illinois, Chicago, IL; The Honorable Debra W. Yang, United States Attorney, Central District of California, Los Angeles, CA; The Honorable Christopher J. Christie, United States Attorney, District of New Jersey, Newark, NJ; Special Agent Grant Ashley, Assistant Director, FBI, Criminal Investigative Division, Washington, DC.

Panel II: The Honorable Robert P. McCulloch, President, National District Attorney Association, Alexandria, VA; Mr. Wes McBride, President, California Gang Investigators Association, Huntington Beach, CA; The Honorable Eddie J. Jordan, Jr., District Attorney, District of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BURNS. I ask unanimous consent Larissa Sommer and Ron Hooper of my

staff be granted floor privileges for the duration of debate on the fiscal year 2004 Interior and Related Agencies Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMEMORATING DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE
UNITED STATES AND BULGARIA

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Foreign Relations Committee be discharged from further action on S. Res. 225 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 225) commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the amendment to the preamble be agreed to, and the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; further, that the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table and any statements regarding this matter appear in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 1738) was agreed to, as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 1738

(Purpose: To make a technical correction)

In the ninth whereas clause of the preamble, strike “2003, Bulgaria was invited to join” and insert “2002, Bulgaria was invited to accession talks with”.

The resolution (S. Res. 225) was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, as amended, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 225

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Bulgaria on September 19, 1903;

Whereas the United States acknowledges the courage of the Bulgarian people in deciding to pursue a free, democratic, and independent Bulgaria and the steadfast perseverance of the Bulgarian people in building a society based on democratic values, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas the Bulgarian people, including Bulgarian civil and religious leaders, bravely protected 50,000 Bulgarian Jews from deportation and extermination during the Holocaust;

Whereas Bulgaria has supported stability in the Balkans by rendering support to Operation Allied Force and Operation Joint Guardian led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and by providing peacekeeping troops to the Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to the Kosovo Force in Kosovo;

Whereas Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against terrorism following the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas Bulgaria provided overflight and basing rights at the town of Burgas for Operation Enduring Freedom and Bulgaria deployed a military unit to Afghanistan as